

AN ACT SUPPORTING PARENTS RUNNING FOR OFFICE

SPONSORED BY SEN. JEHLLEN,
REP. CONNOLLY & REP. MESCHINO
S422/H669

THE CHALLENGE:

For many working families, running a campaign without access to safe affordable childcare for their children is not feasible. Caregiving services disproportionately fall on mothers with women 15 times more likely than men to be responsible for the majority of childcare.

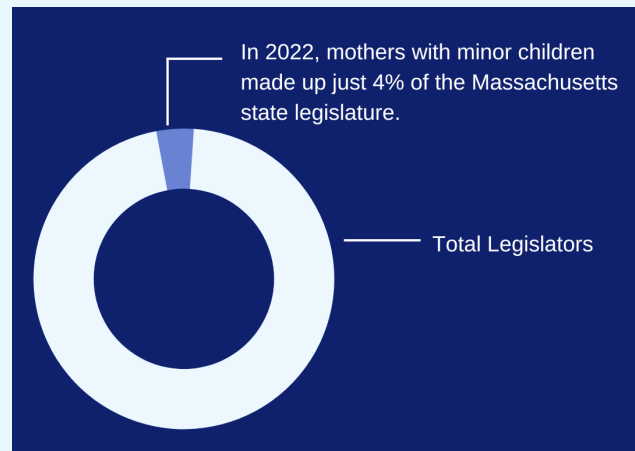
This bill would impact women, specifically women of color, who want to run for and serve in public office. More than 73% of federal campaign funds spent on childcare were spent by women, and more than 45% of funds were spent by people of color.

WHAT WILL THIS LEGISLATION DO?

Currently, the childcare costs incurred during campaign events and activities are considered a personal expense and therefore not eligible for reimbursement under MA law. This legislation would allow state and local candidates to use their campaign funds to pay for campaign related childcare expenses.

Childcare should be treated like other allowable expenses - printing literature, meals for campaign staff, tuxedos for campaign events - as an essential component of a viable campaign.

This bill would eliminate a major barrier for parents seeking public office in their communities and advance equitable political representation throughout the Commonwealth.



The Massachusetts State Legislature ranks 32nd nationally in representation of mothers with minor children. We have the opportunity to transform our political landscape.

Massachusetts is falling behind!

29 states allow campaign funds to be used for childcare, including Alabama, Arkansas, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, and West Virginia.

The Federal Election Commission ruled in May 2018 that candidates for federal office may use campaign funds for childcare.

The passage of this act would extend the federal law to public offices in Massachusetts, expanding access to public office from Congress to City Council.

Contact Matt Hartman at matthew.hartman@masenate.gov or Chris Addis at Christopher.Addis@mahouse.gov to co-sponsor our bill today!